



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>

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Prescribed Burn near Seedhouse Campground Planned by U.S. Forest Service

(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo.) May 7, 2014 – Routt National Forest fire crews are planning to conduct a prescribed burn next week southwest of the Seedhouse Campground in northern Routt County. The Seedhouse Prescribed Burn will take place on Forest Service lands managed by the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District.

Crews will use drip torches to carry out burning operations over the course of one day. Suitable weather and fuel moisture will determine the exact date of this burn. Operations will not commence unless proper environmental conditions are favorable to implement a safe and effective burn. As is often the case, fire managers will be faced with a small window of time between snowmelt and vegetation green-up during which to implement the spring burn.

Approximately 300 acres are targeted to reduce hazardous fuels and alter future fire behavior within treated areas along this portion of the Elk River corridor, which is located adjacent to private land at Hinman Park. Successfully reducing fuels now will help make future potential wildland fire management efforts in this area more safe and effective. Approximately 130 acres were burned as part of this project in the Reed Creek area in 2009.

This particular burn unit is comprised of a mix of mountain shrubs, grasses and aspen. While smoke may be visible from some areas during burning operations, due to the overall light fuel type, it should subside by the evening. U.S. Forest Service fire crews will monitor the burned area following operations until the fire is safely out.

Although this burn is designed primarily to reduce hazardous fuels, it will also provide a secondary benefit of improving elk and moose habitat. Prescribed burning is a versatile forest management tool that can mimic historically natural fire disturbances, reduce hazardous fuels buildup, and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife.

For more information about this or other forest management projects, call the Hahns Peak-Bears Ears Ranger District at (970) 870-2299, or stop by the District Office at 925 Weiss Drive in Steamboat Springs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Information may also be found on this website, <http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>, or you can follow the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland on Twitter, [@MBRNFsTBNG](https://twitter.com/MBRNFsTBNG).

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